

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

In re:	:	Chapter 13
Shirley Lieginger,	:	
Debtor.	:	Bankruptcy No. 19-13435-MDC

**O R D E R**

**AND NOW**, pursuant to the Application for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses (the “Application”)<sup>1</sup> filed by Mark W. Adams (the “Applicant”), counsel to Shirley Lieginger (the “Debtor”), the Applicant requests the allowance of compensation in the amount of \$1,650.00.

**AND**, the Applicant was previously paid \$400.00 by the Debtor (the “Pre-Paid Amount”).

**AND**, after accounting for the Pre-Paid Amount the Application seeks the payment of \$1,250.00 for the balance of fees and expenses sought (the “Remaining Balance”).

**AND**, this Court entered an Order dated January 30, 2020 (the “Confirmation Order”)<sup>2</sup> confirming the Debtor’s Third Amended Chapter 13 Plan dated December 31, 2019 (the “Plan”).<sup>3</sup>

**AND**, the Plan provides that the Applicant will be paid \$1,100.00 as an administrative expense, which when added to the Pre-Paid Amount will result in a total payment to the Applicant in the amount of \$1,500.00. Plan, §2(e).

**AND**, the Applicant filed a certification that proper service has been made on all interested parties.

**AND**, the Applicant filed a certification of no response.

**AND**, the Court of Appeals has held that the bankruptcy court “has a duty to review fee applications, notwithstanding the absence of objections by the United States Trustee . . . , creditors, or any other interested party, a duty which . . . derives from the court’s inherent obligation to monitor the

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<sup>1</sup> Bankr. Docket No. 54.

<sup>2</sup> Bankr. Docket No. 43.

<sup>3</sup> Bankr. Docket No. 36.

debtor's estate and to serve the public interest." *In re Busy Beaver Bldg. Centers, Inc.*, 19 F.3d 833, 841 (3d Cir. 1994) (emphasis in original).

**AND**, a confirmation order precludes the relitigation of any issues that were determined by the confirmation order. *In re Szostek*, 886 F.2d 1405, 1408-09 (3d Cir. 1989); *In re McDuffie*, Bky. No. 03-65333, 2005 WL 3108234, \*1 (Bankr. D. Md. Feb. 22, 2005) ("since no amendment to the plan was filed to increase the specific amount to be paid to counsel, the court cannot order payment through the plan as an administrative expense."); *In re Lasica*, 294 B.R. 718, 722 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 2003) (denying fee request because applicant was bound by terms of previously confirmed Chapter 13 plan); *In re Young*, 285 B.R. 168, 174-75 (Bankr. D. Md. 2002) ("the confirmation of the plan, in which a specific amount of disbursement to counsel for the debtor as attorney's fees was required, acted as a final adjudication of the matters set forth in the plan.").

It is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. The Application is **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**.
2. Consistent with the Confirmation Order, compensation is allowed in favor of the Applicant in the total amount of \$1,500.00 (the "Allowed Compensation"). *See* L.B.R. 2016-1(f) (governing procedure for disposition of fee applications without a hearing). The balance of the expenses sought, in the amount of \$150.00, are disallowed as inconsistent with the terms of the Plan.
3. The Trustee is authorized to distribute to the Applicant the Allowed Compensation and Expenses less the Pre-Paid Amount as an administrative expense pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§330, 331, 503(b).

Dated: May 20, 2020

*Magdelene D. Coleman*

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MAGDELENE D. COLEMAN  
CHIEF U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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